

Roger Ladd

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# Fire Dept. says goodbye

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By GILLIAN SMITH, Editor  
GILLIAN@DUXBURYCLIPPER.COM

This week, Duxbury said goodbye to a long time firefighter who has retired after serving the town for 36 years.

Captain Roger Ladd was appointed a call firefighter on Oct. 2 1978 and a career firefighter on Jan. 16, 1979. He was appointed lieutenant in 1989 and was reclassified in

2004 as a captain.

"He certainly put in his time," Duxbury Fire Chief Kevin Nord said.

Nord, who came on as Fire Chief in 2004, said Ladd was a meticulous worker who could always be counted on to get the job done.

"He was the consummate professional," Nord said. "He

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## Fire Department says goodbye

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was always ready to go." As a shift commander, Ladd was in charge of five or six firefighters and daily operations at the Duxbury and Ashdod. When he arrived in Duxbury, Nord said Ladd was instrumental in helping him transition into his role as chief.

"He was a very big help in my transition," he said. "It's not always easy coming into a new department, so he was instrumental in helping me."

Over the years, Ladd marched in the parades, was on the honor guard and was a member of the local firefighters union 2167. He also served on different committees over the years, assisting with the fire station at Ashdod and with EMS. "What's valuable in someone like this is that he has a lot of institutional knowledge," Nord said. "He has knowledge of the town, where the funny addresses are. That's especially important because when you are dealing with a younger force, that's basically lost."

Ladd also has a talent for drafting field sketches, which are sketches of all of the residences in town. The sketches, which are updated regularly and are the responsibility of the shift commanders, show the layout of the home, where the gas shut off is, where the water shut off is and the hydrant relationship to the building.

"Some guys don't draw so well, some draw very well," Nord said. "It's very helpful."

Captain P.J. Hussey said he worked with Ladd when Hussey was first on the force and remembered an incident where Ladd took him quietly aside to discuss something that Hussey had not done as well as he should have. "The biggest thing he taught me was about leadership," Hussey said. "He taught me it's better to praise in public and discipline in quiet."

Hussey will be taking over Ladd's position and said he will look to his calm demeanor as a guide for leadership going forward. Firefighter paramedic Harry Matthews said he looks to Ladd's experience fighting fires as a valuable asset. With the advances in technology today, there are not as many fires as there was in the 1970s and '80s when Ladd was first on the force, so Matthews said Ladd brought a lot of experience that today's younger firefighters haven't had.

While Ladd will be enjoying his retirement, Nord said he was an asset to the department and will be missed.

"The community was well served by him," Nord said.



Above: Captain Roger Ladd shows the Boy Scouts how to use equipment at the Duxbury Fire Station.



Right: Captain Roger Ladd signs off the air for the final time after a 36-year career with the Duxbury Fire Department.

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